

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended)

An oral solid dosage form, comprising

a) a core portion having sufficiently low friability ~~to receive a printed or etched marking on a surface thereof;~~

b) a covert readable printed or etched marking on ~~the~~ a surface of said core, said marking providing identification/authentication of said oral dosage form;

wherein said core is film coated prior to said printed or etched marking being applied thereto.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original)

The oral solid dosage form of claim 1, wherein said printed or etched marking is a bar code.

4. (Original)

The oral solid dosage form of claim 3, wherein said bar code is a 2D data matrix bar code.

5. (Currently Amended)

The oral solid dosage form of claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein said film coat contains a colorant.

6. (Original)

The oral solid dosage form of claim 1, wherein said marking is readable with a bar code scanner.

7. (Original)

The oral solid dosage form of claim 1, wherein said marking is readable with detection equipment which does not depend upon visible light waves.

8. (Currently Amended)

The oral solid dosage form of claim 1, further comprising a- an overt marking thereon.

9. (Original)

The oral solid dosage form of claim 8, wherein said covert marking is detectable by aroma or taste.

10. (Previously Presented)

The oral solid dosage form of claim 8, wherein said covert marking is detectable using High Performance Liquid Chromatography.

11. (Original)

The oral solid dosage form of any of claims 1-10, wherein the surface of said core further comprises a debossed region into which said printed or etched marking is placed.

12. (Original)

The oral solid dosage form of claim 11, wherein said debossed region has a substantially horizontal plane with respect to the center of said core.

13. (Original)

The oral solid dosage form of claim 1, wherein said core has an ink coating applied to a portion thereof prior to said marking being applied thereto.

14. (Currently Amended)

A method of applying a readable printed or etched covert marking which provides

identification/authentication criteria on the surface an oral solid dosage form, comprising

- a) providing a pharmaceutically acceptable core portion ~~having sufficiently low friability to receive a printed or etched marking on a surface thereof;~~
- b) film coating said core; and
- c) applying a readable printed or etched covert marking on the a surface of said coated  
core.

15. (Original)

The method of claim 14, wherein said marking is applied via pad printing.

16. (Original)

The method of claim 14, wherein said marking is applied via ink jet printing.

17. (Original)

The method of claim 14, wherein said marking is etched onto a surface of said core.

18. (Original)

The method of claim 14, further comprising debossing a surface region of said core and applying said marking in said debossed region.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended)

The method of claim 14, further comprising applying a an overt marking to said core.

21. (Original)

The method of claim 20, wherein said printed marking is applied using an ink containing a covert marker therein.

22. (Currently Amended)

The method of claim 15, wherein said pad printing is applied using an ~~Opaque ink~~  
ingestible and pharmaceutically acceptable ink.

23. (Previously Presented)

The method of claim 20, wherein the concentration of said covert marker is applied to a film coating in an amount sufficient to provide about 2 to about 5 ppm per tablet marked.

24. (Original)

The method of claim 23, wherein the concentration of said covert marker is sufficient to provide about 4 ppm per tablet marked.